

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

**PCT**

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL  
OF COPIES OF TRANSLATION  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT  
ON PATENTABILITY  
(CHAPTER I OR CHAPTER II  
OF THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY)  
(PCT Rules 44bis.3(c) and 72.2)

To:

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JAPON

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 06 July 2006 (06.07.2006)	
Applicant's or agent's file reference PCT003	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
International application No. PCT/JP2004/015025	International filing date (day/month/year) 12 October 2004 (12.10.2004)
Applicant CHUGAI RO CO., LTD. et al	

## 1. Transmittal of the translation to the applicant.



The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the English translation of the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I).



The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the English translation of the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter II).

## 2. Transmittal of the copy of the translation to the designated or elected Offices.

The International Bureau notifies the applicant that copies of that translation have been transmitted to the following designated or elected Offices requiring such translation:

None

The following designated or elected Offices, having waived the requirement for such a transmittal at this time, will receive copies of that translation from the International Bureau only upon their request:

AE, AG, AL, AM, AP, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DK, DM, DZ, EA, EC, EE, EG, EP, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, KE, KG, KP, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OA, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW

## 3. Reminder regarding translation into (one of) the official language(s) of the elected Office(s).

The applicant is reminded that, where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter II).

It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned within the applicable time limit (Rule 74.1). See Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide for further details.

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer  Yoshiko Kuwahara
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# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

# PCT

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>PCT003</b>	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>	See item 4 below
International application No. <b>PCT/JP2004/015025</b>	International filing date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) <b>12 October 2004 (12.10.2004)</b>	Priority date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) <b>17 October 2003 (17.10.2003)</b>
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) <b>See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237</b>		
Applicant <b>CHUGAI RO CO., LTD.</b>		

1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.

In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- |                                     |              |   |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I    | Basis of the report   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. II   | Priority  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. III  | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. IV   | Lack of unity of invention  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V    | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI   | Certain documents cited   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. VII  | Certain defects in the international application  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application   |

4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland  Facsimile No. +41 22 338 82 70	Date of issuance of this report <b>26 June 2006 (26.06.2006)</b>  Authorized officer  <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Yoshiko Kuwahara</div> e-mail: pt07@wipo.int
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# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

TRANSLATION

From the  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:

Date of mailing  
(day/month/year)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

**PCT003**

**FOR FURTHER ACTION**

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.

**PCT/JP2004/015025**

International filing date (day/month/year)

**12.10.2004**

Priority date (day/month/year)

**17.10.2003**

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

Applicant

**CHUGAI RO CO., LTD.**

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☒ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.<sup>2</sup>

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/015025

Box No. I

Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.  
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language  
\_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
  - a. type of material  
☐ a sequence listing  
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
  - b. format of material  
☐ in written format  
☐ in computer readable form
  - c. time of filing/furnishing  
☐ contained in the international application as filed.  
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/015025

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
<b>1. Statement</b>			
Novelty (N)	Claims	1 - 3	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1 - 3	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1 - 3	YES
	Claims		NO
<b>2. Citations and explanations:</b>			
<p>Document 1: JP, 10-72624, A (Nisshin Steel Co., Ltd.), 17 March, 1998 (17.03.98), 0001-0004 (Family: none)</p> <p>Document 2: JP, 2003-247787, A (Chugai Ro Co., Ltd.), 5 September, 2003 (05.09.03), 0006 &amp; EP, 1338659, A1</p> <p>Document 3: JP, 11-158559, A (Sumitomo Metal Industries, Ltd.), 15 June, 1999 (15.06.99), claims, Drawings (Family: none)</p> <p>Document 4: JP, 57-35620, A (Oriental Engineering Kabushiki Kaisha), 26 February, 1982 (26.02.82), Detailed explanation of the Invention (Family: none)</p> <p>Document 5: JP, 53-110909, A (Oriental Engineering Kabushiki Kaisha), 28 September, 1978 (28.09.78), Detailed explanation of the Invention (Family: none)</p> <p><b>Claims 1-3</b>  The subject matters of claims 1-3 do not appear to involve an inventive step in view of documents 1-5 cited in the ISR.  0002 of document 1 describes that white powder is formed from a substance of steel strip to be heated itself within a bright annealing furnace. 0006 of document 2 describes that white powder is generated by the evaporation of boron contained in a steel strip to be heated. Document 3 describes a well-known atmosphere inside thereof, which is the atmosphere that boron is oxidized. The above description can find that the main ingredient of the white powder is boron oxide, and it is possible to control the generation of the white powder by preventing the oxidization of the boron contained in the steel strip to be heated</p> <p>Studying the means of preventing the oxidization of the boron contained in the steel strip to be heated, the detailed explanations in documents 4 and 5 describe a method for preventing oxidization of elements contained in the steel strip to be heated by introducing a hydrocarbon gas inside of the furnace at a high-temperature area. The detailed explanations in document 4 suggest that the degrees of oxidization and reduction of a carbon and the hydrocarbon gas depend on a partial pressure of steam. The detailed explanations in documents 4 and 5 suggest that it is possible to prevent the oxidization of elements contained in the steel strip to be heated by introducing a carbon inside of the furnace. Moreover, if the means described in documents 4 and 5 is employed in order to prevent the oxidization of the boron contained in the steel strip to be heated, it can be found that the partial pressure of steam in the atmosphere of the inside of the furnace becomes lower than <math>1 \times 10^{-5}</math> following the above.</p>			

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/015025

Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;  
citations and explanations supporting such statement

Since the subject matters of claims 1-5 have the same technical problem in respect of controlling the atmosphere of the inside of the bright annealing furnace, a person skilled in the art could have easily conceived making the partial pressure of steam of the inside of the furnace lower than  $1 \times 10^{-5}$  by introducing the hydrocarbon gas and adding a compound containing the carbon in order to control the generation of the white powder.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/015025

Box No. VI

Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rule 43bis.1 and 70.10)

Application No. Patent No.	Publication date (day/month/year)	Filing date (day/month/year)	Priority date (valid claim) (day/month/year)
JP 2003-306744 A [P, A]	31.10.2003	03.02.2003	14.02.2002

2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 43bis.1 and 70.9)

Kind of non-written disclosure	Date of non-written disclosure (day/month/year)	Date of written disclosure referring to non-written disclosure (day/month/year)
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